

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region I - EPA New England

Author: Andrew Spejewski

Drafted Date: August 31, 2010

I. Facility Information

- A. *Facility Name:* Assabet Sand and Gravel
B. *Facility Location:* 16 Knox Trail
Acton, MA 01720
C. *Facility Contact:* Douglas Macone
D. *Contact Mailing Address:* PO Box 2256
Acton, MA 01720-6256
E. *Permit #:*

II. Background Information

- A. *Date of inspection:* 26 August 2010
B. *Weather Conditions:* Clear, dry; rained several days preceding
C. *US EPA Representative(s):* Andrew Spejewski
D. *State/Local Representative(s):* none
E. *Previous Enforcement Actions:* Clean Water Action filed an Intent to File Suit as a citizen suit under the Clean Water Act on November 10, 2010.

III Purpose of Inspection

Examine compliance with the federal Multi-Sector General Permit for stormwater discharge from industrial facilities

IV Facility Description *(Based on inspector observations, site personnel statements, and a map provided by the site owner)*

The site is a rock products facility, crushing and sorting rock on site. Used historically as a sand pit, no mining currently takes place on site. It is roughly square about 200 yards per side, extending northwest from Knox Trail. An entrance, a small office and a vehicle scale leading to an exit are located along the southeast edge of the site. Crushers, a sand washer and conveyers occupy the center of the site. A primary settling basin is east of the machinery. A ramp up to a large earthen platform for unloading occupies the northern corner. A garage and parking area is along the south edge. The entire facility is unpaved gravel/packed crushed stone. The Assabet River runs along Knox Trail, across from the facility.

V. Inspection

Mr. Spejewski arrived at the facility and parked at the office near the entrance. Mr. Spejewski entered and introduced himself to Ross Wheeler, office manager for the facility. Mr. Wheeler stated that the owner had all paperwork, but he was not on site. Mr. Spejewski asked to tour the facility. Mr. Wheeler stated that he himself had to stay at his desk, but he could see if the facility manager could answer questions. Mr. Wheeler then told Mr. Spejewski that a hardhat was required to walk the site. Mr. Spejewski, upon finding that his own hardhat had a broken strap,

accepted Mr. Wheeler's offer of a loaned hardhat.

Mr. Spejewski then told Mr. Wheeler that he would walk around, and if possible the manager could find him. Mr. Wheeler agreed. Mr. Spejewski understood this as permission to walk the site.

Mr. Spejewski observed the entrance, exit, parking lot to the southeast, and walked to the edge of the primary settling basin. At this point, the facility manager found Mr. Spejewski and stated that the owner would be arriving soon, and requested Mr. Spejewski wait for him to arrive. Mr. Spejewski agreed and returned to the office to await the owner.

Within a few minutes, Douglas Macone arrived at the site. Mr. Macone introduced himself as the owner of the facility. Mr. Macone stated that he had just submitted an NOI for a MSGP (Mr. Macone stated that he thought that was the reason for the inspection). Mr. Macone stated he had not yet done any monitoring or sampling required by the permit. Mr. Macone presented a SWPPP for the site. The SWPPP identified pollutants, paths and controls for stormwater (settling basins around the perimeter of the facility).

Mr. Macone provided a copy of the facility map from the SWPPP.

The two then toured the facility.

The site entrance is unpaved, and slopes slightly down to Knox Trail. There is a large open area, surrounded by various stockpiles inside the entrance. This open area is mostly flat, and the exact point where it slopes towards the entrance was unclear. Mr. Macone stated that the topography of this unpaved area changes, so what drains to the entrance changes over time. There was some sediment deposited on the paved Knox Trail. There were two catchbasins on Knox Trail, about 10-20 yards south of the entrance, that accepted drainage from the entrance.

To the east and north of the entrance, the site boundary was slightly bermed, and surrounded by a strip of well-established vegetation.

The primary settling basin accepts water used to wash sand. At the time of the inspection, a pipe coming from the sand wash tower was discharging turbid water to the basin. The basin contained moderately turbid water. Mr. Macone stated they could control the outflow from the basin.

To the northeast of the site are two large ponds (Mr. Spejewski estimated one acre each), with a causeway separating them. Mr. Macone stated the westernmost pond was the secondary settling basin for the site, receiving both the discharge from the primary settling basin in the center of the site, and stormwater from a portion of the site. Mr. Macone stated the secondary basin drains to the other large pond (identified on plans as the A3 tertiary settling basin). Mr. Macone stated that neither pond is connected to the Assabet River. The secondary pond appeared to be cloudy and turbid near the headwall discharging into it. The tertiary pond was harder to see, but appeared clearer.

The berm along the edge of the site continued to the northern corner. At this point, an opening in the berm at a local low point allowed stormwater to flow into a flat wooded area. Mr. Macone stated this was intentional, and the flat area was a settling area. There was significant sediment deposited in this area; but it was very flat and it was difficult to find the eventual discharge point, if any, from this area.

Another berm ran along the northwest edge of the facility. In the west corner the site drained to another settling basin. The basin was cloudy, and merged into wetlands. The outfall, if any, could not be seen from the facility.

To the southwest, the facility borders the rear of a supermarket. A small pond (less than 10 feet across) collects drainage from a portion of the site, and discharges to a culvert running under the supermarket parking lot. Mr. Macone stated this culvert leads to the basin in the southeast corner of the site.

A one-bay garage/maintenance facility is located along the south edge of the site. Mr. Macone stated that fueling of vehicles is done by a tanker truck that drives onto the site, and there are no fuel tanks at the facility. He stated only minor maintenance is done on site. The garage included a concrete containment berm area with two large motor oil tanks (estimated 275 gallons or so each) and some smaller drums. Two 55-gallon drums (one labeled as transmission fluid and one as hydraulic fluid) were on the floor outside of the berm. The floor was clean with no signs of spills or staining. There were no floor drains in the building.

Mr. Spejewski asked if there was a spill kit. Mr. Macone stated there was, but he wasn't sure exactly where, as he didn't do garage work himself. As the two were leaving the garage, a facility employee entered, and showed Mr. Spejewski spill-absorbent material in a back room of the garage.

A small unpaved parking lot occupies the extreme southeastern corner of the site. It drains to a small basin (about 10 feet long), with standing water and extensive vegetation, at the edge of the lot. Mr. Macone identified the swale as a settling basin. The swale/basin discharges to a short culvert leading under the chain-link fence around the facility, to a swale running south along Knox Trail. Another culvert discharges to the swale; Mr. Macone identified this as the culvert from the small basin adjacent to the supermarket. The swale had moderate cattail growth and led to another culvert. Mr. Macone stated this culvert discharged to another settling basin slightly farther south.

At this point the two returned to the office. Mr. Spejewski thanked Mr. Macone for his time and left the site.

Picture List

IMG_1082	Main entrance, facing out to Knox Trail
IMG_1083	From entrance, facing south along Knox Trail towards Powder Mill Road
IMG_1084	Knox Trail facing south
IMG_1085	Scale and exit to Knox Trail
IMG_1086	Southeast towards southeast edge of site
IMG_1087	south over basin at southeast edge of site, to swale south of site

IMG_1088	northwest over primary settling basin
IMG_1089	Overflow structure for primary settling basin
IMG_1090	facing south across primary settling basin
IMG_1091	Site boundary, immediately northeast of primary settling basin
IMG_1092	Secondary settling basin northeast of site
IMG_1093	Spillway and tertiary settling basin, east of secondary settling basin
IMG_1094	Northern edge of site, to settling area in woods
IMG_1095	Main wash sand processing plant, facing south
IMG_1096	Settling basin C1 to southwest of site
IMG_1097	Southwest to settling basin C1
IMG_1098	Small basin to southwest, between site and Stop and Shop
IMG_1099	Small basin, showing bordering Stop and Shop
IMG_1100	Oil tanks and containment inside garage
IMG_1101	Swale south of southeast edge of site